

Before the Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20544

In the Matter of)
)
Restoring Internet Freedom) WC Docket No. 17-108

Comments of:

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In thinking about how the United States product and services community works today, I recognize – particularly in big business and corporations – a parallel to Issac Asimov's Three Laws of Robotics.^{1 2} So, restating Asimov's Laws from the view of those big businesses and corporations:

First Law	The business shall observe and obey the letter of government statute and regulation (most of the time)
Second Law	The business shall service the interest of its owners, management, shareholders, and investors, unless those interests conflict with the First Law
Third Law	The business shall service the interest of its customers and employees, unless those interests conflict with the First or Second Law

When the question of self-governance arises (NPRM³ at 70 page 25, 77 page 27, re Clyburn page 63, paragraph 4), remember that such self-governance is a principle of the Third Law. When element identification is applied to ISPs without conflicts of interest, one finds that self-governance does not conflict with the First or Second Law, and so such self-governance is possible.

For conflicted ISPs, however, this Third-Law principle is overridden by the Second Law, such that self-governance is not possible. This is why some conflicted parties, engaging in actions that interfere with the smooth and even-handed flow of data over their networks, do not stop until enough bad PR – a Second Law principle – forces them to reconsider their practices.

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- 1 First Law: A robot must not injure a human being or, through inaction, allow a human being to come to harm
Second law: A robot must obey orders given it by human beings except when such orders would conflict with the First Law
Third Law: A robot must protect its own existence as long as such protection does not conflict with the First or Second Law
 - 2 In the later books by Asimov, a “zero”th law was added: “A robot may not harm humanity, or, by inaction, allow humanity to come to harm.” Unfortunately, many businesses do not recognize this Zero-th Law. Instead, social conscientiousness can manifest itself, when it does, as a principle of the Third Law.
 - 3 FCC 17-60, released 23 May 2017.